

ML

XXXXXXXXXXXX  
WA6-2054

20734

10/1/66

Dear Ardens, all,

Good to hear from you and that you are near. The book is now mostly through that third printing, having sold more than 13,000 copies. I've had to let my publisher's hat stay on the hook pretty much recently, so although sales are holding up they haven't increased as they might have. I've researched and written a sequel of something more than 100,000 words. It is in rough draft and I'm going to have to keep with it because if I do not make an immediate deal for it I'm going to do the same thing. I feel the subject matter cannot wait. It does not duplicate WHITEWASH.

You are in a nice neighborhood, and it should be good for the kids.

While I do get the DC about once a week, sometimes oftener, I stay pretty busy. I'm going to stop off the first time I can, probably on the way home, for that is not far out of the way. We'll be in town Monday, but I doubt if I'll have time then. One of the big houses is pushing hard for the book in paperback but they are keeping the cover on their adding machine and wonder at my lack of excitement, perhaps, when they hold out the prospect of a sale of a million and an initial printing of 300,000. I not only want to see the fine print, but with the little I've done with the book in the past month, it has sold itself well enough to return what the sale of 142,000 copies in paperback would bring me. I have too many accumulated debts, too many costs yet to recoup, to grab. I turned Fawcett down two months ago and in the first month got back more than they offered.

Despite all the handicaps, this thing# is going wild, selling like crazy with limping, incomplete and improvised distribution and unavailable in most of the country. I've become so well known that two New York cops came up to me yesterday to comment on my TV appearances there.

Best to you all and I'll be in touch the first time I can be.

Thanks for writing.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg